

*The French King's Declaration of War by Sea and Land against the Spaniards, revoking the Pasports, Safeguards, and safe Conducts, and making prohibition against having any Commerce, and enjoyning his Subjects to fall upon the Spaniards.*

THE sincere Desire which the King has had to maintain the Truce concluded in the Year 1684. induc'd His Majesty to dissemble the Conduct held by the Ministers of *Spain* in all the Courts of *Europe*, where they have made it their whole endeavour to stir them up to take up Arms against *France*; And His Majesty is no stranger to the Sham they have had in the League of *Augshbourg*; He has likewise been informed of the Part the Governour of the *Spanish Low-Countries* has had in the Prince of *Orange's* Enterprize against *England*; but in no wise believing that His Conduct in that matter had been prescribed to him by the King His Master, who for so many reasons of Religion, Blood, and Security for all Kings, was bound to oppose such an *Ulurpation*. His Majesty had hoped that He might have prevailed with his Catholick Majesty to have struck up an Union with him for the Restoration of the Lawful King in *England*, and the conservation of the *Catholick Religion*, against the Union of the Protestant Princes, and at least to keep an exact neutrality, if the state of the Affairs of *Spain* did not permit the *Catholick King* to take such like Engagements: His Majesty had to that intent made him several Proposals since the Month of *November* last, which have been well received, while the Prince of *Orange's* Enterprize seemed doubtful. But these favourable Dispartions vanished, as soon as it was known at *Madrid*; that the King of *England* had departed his Kingdom, and from that time there has been no other Discourse than of War against *France*. His Majesty has at the same time understood, that the *Spanish Ambassador* in *England* daily saw the Prince of *Orange*, and solicited him to induce the English to declare War against *France*; that the Governour of the *Spanish Low-Countries* raised Forces in all haste; that he promised the *States General* to joyn them with theirs in the beginning of the Campaign, and solicited them, as well as the Prince of *Orange*, to send Troops into *Flanders*, for the putting him in a posture of waging War against *France*: All these intimations having let his Majesty understand, that it became his Prudence to know what to rely upon: He gave order to the Count de *Rebenac*, his Ambassador at *Madrid*, to demand a positive Answer of the Catholick King's Ministers, offering him the continuation of the Truce,

*E* *desir sincere que le Roy a eû de maintenir la Trêve concluée en l'année 1684. a porté Sa Majesté à dissimuler la conduite qu'ont tenue les Ministres d'*Espagne* dans toutes les Cours des Princes de l'*Europe*, où ils ne se sont appliquez qu'à les exciter à prendre les Armes contre la *France*; Et Sa Majesté n'a pas ignoré la part qu'ils ont ciue dans la negociation de la ligue d'*Ausbourg*; Elle a aussi esté informée de celle qu'a eû le Gouverneur des *Pâis-Bas Espagnols*, dans l'entreprise que le Prince d'*Orange* a faite contre l'*Angleterre*; mais ne pouvant croire que la conduite qu'il a tenue à cet égard, luy eût été prescrite par le Roy son Maistre, qui par tant de raisons de Religion, de Sang, & de Seuré pour tous les Roys, estoit obligé de s'opposer à une pareille usurpation, Sa Majesté avoit esperé de pouvoir porter Sa Majesté Catholique à s'unir avec Elle pour le rétablissement du Roy legitime en *Angleterre*, & la conservation de la Religion Catholique contre l'union des Princes Protestans, & au moins, à garder une neutralité exacte, si l'état des affaires d'*Espagne* ne permettoit pas au Roy Catholique de prendre de pareils engagemens, Sa Majesté luy a fait faire pour cet effet differentes propositions depuis le mois de Novembre dernier, lesquelles ont esté bien receuës, tandis que le succez de l'entreprise du Prince d'*Orange* a paru douteux; mais ces favorables dispositions se sont évanouies dès que l'on a sceu à *Madrid* le Roy d'*Angleterre* sorty de son Royaume, & l'on n'y a plus parlé que de guerre contrel a *France*. Sa Majesté a appris en mesme temps que l'*Ambassadeur d'*Espagne** en *Angleterre* voyoit journellement le Prince d'*Orange*, & le sollicitoit de faire que les Anglois déclarassent la Guerre à la *France*, que le Gouverneur des *Pâis-Bas Espagnols* levoit des troupes avec empressement; qu'il promettoit aux *Estats Généraux* de les joindre aux leurs au commencement de la Campagne, & les sollicitoit aussi bien que le Prince d'*Orange*, à faire passer des Troupes en *Flandres* pour le mettre en estat de faire la Guerre à la *France*. Tous ces avis ayant fait juger à Sa Majesté qu'il estoit de sa prudence de seavoir a quoy's en tenir, Elle a donné ordre au Comte de *Rebenac*, son *Ambassadeur à Madrid*, de demander une réponse positive aux Ministres du Roy Catholique, luy offrant la continuation*

tion de la Tieue, pour nù qu'il volust s'obliger en gardant une neutralité exable, de ne secourir directement, ny indirectement les ennemis de sa Majesté; mais les mauvais Conseils ayant prévalu, Sa Majesté a esté informée que la resolution avoit esté prise de Favoriser l'usurpateur d'Angleterre, & de se joindre aux Princes Protestans. Sa Majesté a appris aussi, presque en mesme temps que les Agents du Prince d'Orange ont touché des sommes considérables à Cadix, & à Madrid, que les Troupes de Hollande & de Brandenbourg sont entrées dans les principales Places des Espagnols en Flanders, Eque le Gouverneur des Païs-Bas pour le Roy Catholique faisoit soliciter les Estates Généraux de faire avancer leur Armée sous Bruxelles. Tous ces avis joynts à la réponse que ledit Comte de Rebenac a receue à Madrid ne laissant à Sa Majesté aucun lieu de douter que l'intention du Roy Catholique ne soit de se joindre à ses Ennemis; Sa Majesté a crû ne devoir pas perdre de temps à prévenir ses mauvais desseins, & a resolu de luy déclarer la Guerre, tant par Mer que par Terre, comme Elle fait par la Presente. Ordonne & Enjoint pour cét effet, Sa Majesté, à tous ses Sujets, Vassaux & Serviteurs de courre sus aux Espagnols, & leur a defendu & defend très-expressément, d'avoir cyaprés avec eux aucune communication, commerce, ny intelligence, à pein de la vie; Et à cette fin, Sa Majesté a dés-à-présent revoqué & revoqué toutes Permissions, Passeports, Sauvegardes, & Sauf-conduits, qui pourroient avoir esté accordez par Elle, ou par ses Lieutenans Généraux, & autres ses Officiers, contraires à la presente, & les a déclaré & déclaré nuls, & de nul effet & valeur; defend à qui que ce soit d'y avoir aucun égard. Mande & Ordonne Sa Majesté à Monsieur l'Amiral, aux Mareschaux de France, Gouverneurs & Lieutenans Généraux pour Sa Majesté en ses Provinces & Armées, Mareschaux de Camp, Colonels, Mestres de Camp, Capitaines, Chefs & Conducteurs de ses gens de Guerre, tant de cheval que de pied, François & Etrangers, & tous autres ses Officiers qu'il appartiendra, que le contenu en la presente, ils fassent executer chacun à son égard dans l'étendue de leurs pouvoirs & jurisdictions; Car telle est la volonté de Sa Majesté, laquelle veut & entend, que la presente soit publiée & affichée en toutes ses Villes, tant Maritimes qu'autres, & en tous ses Ports, Havres & autres lieux de son Royaume, & terres de son obéissance que besoin sera, à ce qu'aucun n'en prétende cause d'ignorance. Fait à Versailles 15. Avril 1689. Signé, Louis. Et plus bas, COLBERT.

provided he would oblige himself, by keeping an exact neutrality not to succour directly or indirectly his Majesties Enemies: But all Counsels having prevailed, his Majesty has been informed, that the Resolution had been taken to favour the Usurper of England, and of joyning with the Protestant Princes. His Majesty has also understood at the same time, that the Prince of Orange's Agents receiv'd considerable Sums at Cadiz and Madrid, that the Troops of Holland and Brandenbourg are entered into the principal Towns belonging to the Spaniards in Flanders; and that the Catholick King's Governor of the Low-Countries caused the States-General to be solicited to order their Army to advance to Bruxells. All these Advertisements, together with the Answer received by the Count de Rebenac at Madrid, leaving his Majesty no room to question, but that the Catholick King's intention is to joyn with his Enemies; His Majesty thought it became him, not to lose time, for the preventing his ill Designs, and has resolved to declare War against him, as well by Sea as Land, as he does by these presents: Therefore his Majesty orders and enjoyns, to this effect, all his Subjects, Vassals, and Servants, to fall upon the Spaniards, and has most expressly forbid, and does forbid such his Subjects from having hereafter with the Spaniards any Communication, Commerce, or Intelligence, upon pain of Death; and to that purpose, His M. has revoked and does revoke all Permissions, Pasports, Safeguards, and safe Conducts, which may have been granted by him, or by his Lieutenant Generals, and other his Officers, contrary to these Presents, and has and does declare them null, and of no effect; forbidding all Persons whatsoever from having regard thereunto. His M. commands and orders the Admiral, Mareschals of France, Governors, and L. Generals for his M. in his Provinces and Armies, Mareschals de Camp, Colonels, Maires de Camps, Captains, Chieftains, and Leaders of his Soldiery, as well of Horse as Foot, French and Foreigners, and all other his Officers to whom it shall belong, that they cause these Presents to be executed as far forth as may concern them, and fall within their Powers and Jurisdictions. For such is his M. Will and Pleasure, his Will and Pleasure being, that these Presents be publish'd and affix'd in all his Cities, as well Maritime as other, and in all his Ports, Havens, and all other places of his Realm, and to all Territories under his Command whom it may concern, that so none may plead ignorance. Given at Versailles the 15th. of April, 1689. Signed, and lower, COLBERT.